

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending. The amendments to the claims do not add any issues since the amendments simply clarify what was believed already understood in the previous claims.

The Examiner rejected Applicants' claims over U.S. Patent No. 5,393,061 to Manship. Applicants had previously argued that Manship's "fever mode" used the same indicia as the "regular mode." In the regular mode, Manship displays bells as symbols. In Manship's fever mode, the bells are enlarged and swing back and forth on the screen; however, the bells in the fever mode and regular mode are treated as the same indicia. Applicants thus concluded that the bells in both the regular mode and fever mode were the same indicia. Applicants argued that the claimed "first indicia" and "second indicia" limitation in Claim 1 precluded Manship's use of bells in both the regular mode and fever mode. The Examiner disagreed. The present amendments to the claims clarify that the second indicia does not correspond in appearance to the first indicia. Since the swinging bells in Manship's fever mode unquestionably correspond in appearance to the bells in the regular mode, the claims now preclude Manship.

It is presumed that the Examiner will now argue that U.S. Patent No. 5,393,057 to Marnell, when combined with Manship, would create a device that uses first indicia in a regular mode and completely different indicia in a bonus mode. However, the Marnell slot machine requires the second display to be displayed at all times, since the Marnell invention is directed to a second display that must be viewable at all times. Marnell's second display essentially accumulates the results from the regular game. For example, one of Marnell's displayed games is a bingo game whose grid accumulates outcomes from the regular game. It would make no sense for the Marnell second display to be displayed on the same screen as the regular game since Marnell's secondary games could then not be appreciated. Accordingly,

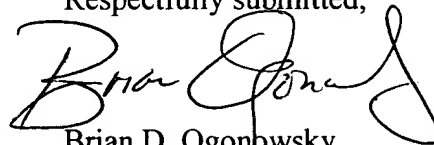
the combination of Marnell and Marship would destroy the functionality of the Marnell invention, so there cannot be any suggestion to combine the two prior art devices.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the claims make all claims 1-16 allowable.

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Appendix A

The following is a marked up version of the amended claims.

1. (Twice Amended) A method of operating a slot machine, said method comprising:

generating a first game result, by displaying a combination randomly selected from first indicia, using circuitry within said slot machine;

displaying said first game result on a video screen of said slot machine;

if said first game result meets certain criteria, generating a bonus game result, by displaying second indicia not corresponding in appearance to said first indicia, using said circuitry and displaying said bonus game result on said video screen,

said generating and displaying said first game result and said bonus game result being performed by the same hardware in said slot machine so as to require no additional hardware to generate and display said bonus game result; and

granting an award to a player based on said first game result and said bonus game result.

4. (Twice Amended) A slot machine comprising:

circuitry within said slot machine for generating a first game result, by displaying a combination randomly selected from first indicia;

a video display screen on said slot machine for displaying said first game result;

circuitry within said slot machine for generating a bonus game result, by displaying second indicia not corresponding in appearance to said first indicia, if said first game result meets certain criteria, and displaying said bonus game result on said video screen;

wherein generating and displaying said first game result and said bonus game result is performed by the same hardware in said slot machine so as to require no additional hardware to generate and display said bonus game result.

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